



# Senate

General Assembly

**File No. 13**

January Session, 2023

Senate Bill No. 911

*Senate, March 6, 2023*

The Committee on Labor and Public Employees reported through SEN. KUSHNER of the 24th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

## **AN ACT INCREASING THE THRESHOLD AMOUNT FOR FELONY UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION FRAUD.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (f) of section 31-273 of the general statutes is  
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*  
3 *1, 2023*):

4 (f) Any person who knowingly makes a false statement or  
5 representation or fails to disclose a material fact in order to obtain,  
6 increase, prevent or decrease any benefit, contribution or other payment  
7 under this chapter, or under any similar law of another state or of the  
8 United States in regard to which this state acted as agent pursuant to an  
9 agreement authorized by section 31-225, whether to be made to or by  
10 [himself or herself] such person or any other person, and who receives  
11 any such benefit, pays any such contribution or alters any such payment  
12 to [his or her] such person's advantage by such fraudulent means (1)  
13 shall be guilty of a class A misdemeanor if such benefit, contribution or  
14 payment amounts to [five hundred] two thousand dollars or less, or (2)

15 shall be guilty of a class D felony if such benefit, contribution or  
16 payment amounts to more than [five hundred] two thousand dollars.  
17 Notwithstanding the provisions of section 54-193, no person shall be  
18 prosecuted for a violation of the provisions of this subsection committed  
19 on or after October 1, 1977, except within five years next after such  
20 violation has been committed.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
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Section 1	<i>October 1, 2023</i>	31-273(f)
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**LAB**      *Joint Favorable*

*The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.*

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**OFA Fiscal Note**

**State Impact:** None

**Municipal Impact:** None

**Explanation**

The bill, which increases the dollar threshold for unemployment compensation fraud to be classified as a felony (rather than a misdemeanor), does not result in any fiscal impact to the state or municipalities as the number of cases is not anticipated to be great enough to require additional resources.

**The Out Years**

**State Impact:** None

**Municipal Impact:** None

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**OLR Bill Analysis****SB 911*****AN ACT INCREASING THE THRESHOLD AMOUNT FOR FELONY  
UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION FRAUD.*****SUMMARY**

This bill increases, from \$500 to \$2,000, the amount that unemployment compensation fraud must exceed to be classified as a felony.

By law, unemployment compensation fraud is knowingly making a false statement or representation or failing to disclose a material fact to obtain, increase, prevent, or decrease an unemployment benefit, contribution, or other payment. Under current law, a fraudulent payment, benefit, or contribution is a (1) class A misdemeanor if it amounts to \$500 or less or (2) class D felony if it amounts to more than \$500. The bill increases these thresholds to \$2,000 or less for a class A misdemeanor and more than \$2,000 for a class D felony.

A class A misdemeanor is punishable by up to 364 days in prison, a fine of up to \$2,000 fine, or both. A class D felony is punishable by up to five years in prison, a fine of up to \$5,000 fine, or both.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2023

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Labor and Public Employees Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 7      Nay 4      (02/16/2023)